

West Nile Virus Newsletter

Zoonotic Disease Program, Washington State Department of Health

August 10, 2006

Volume 4, Issue 7

Purpose

To keep our partners and other interested entities informed about West Nile virus (WNV)

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Army says: Port Orchard WNV report false alarm

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Avoid summer pests and the diseases they may carry

National, regional, and state surveillance update

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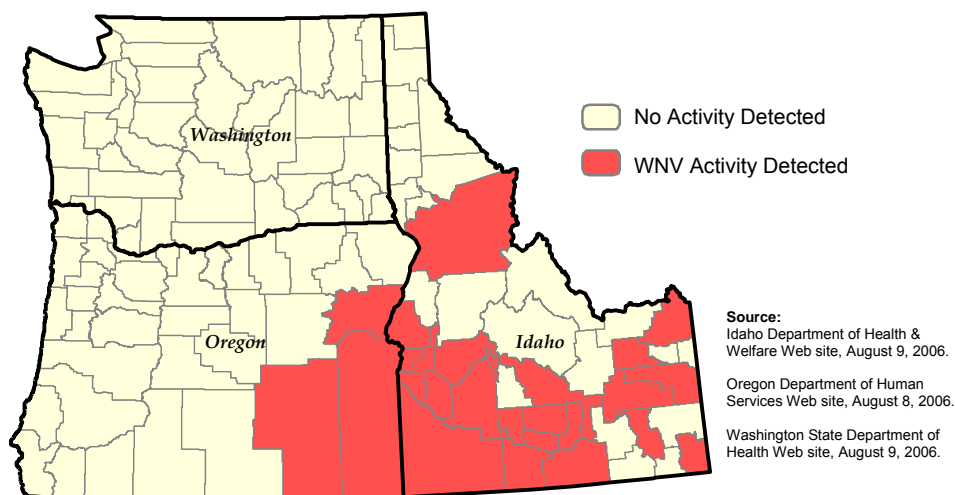
Keeping the bugs at bay: Public health money gives a boost to the untidy science of crafting a better insect repellent

View the [July 27, 2006](#) WNV Newsletter

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Contact Ben Hamilton
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West Nile virus activity in the northwest, 2006



WNV positive in the northwest

[Washington](#): No activity detected

[Idaho](#): 109 humans, 113 horses, 60 birds, mosquito pools detected in 5 counties

[Oregon](#): 3 humans, 2 horse, 3 birds, 4 mosquito pools

More Idahoans expected to contract West Nile virus

By Ysebel Bilbao, 7KTVB.com, August 9 and Rebecca Boone, Associated Press, August 6, 2006

BOISE — More than two dozen new cases of West Nile virus have been confirmed since Monday, bringing the total number of Idahoans who are sick with the disease to 95. Idaho has the most human cases in the nation this year and the number of victims continues to increase.

Sixteen-year-old David Cole is recovering from the virus in the intensive care unit at Saint Alphonsus Hospital. Cole was admitted to the hospital more than a week ago. He is just one of 10 Idahoans who suffer from the most serious form of the disease called neuro-invasive West Nile.

West Nile virus has likely contributed to the deaths of at least three people in Idaho this summer.

A man from Elmore County and a Lincoln County woman, both over the age of 70, recently died after contracting West Nile virus, Department of Health and Welfare spokesman Tom Shanahan said. Neither of their names were released.

"It's kind of like the flu — when people get older, the flu can bring them down while a younger person would recover," Shanahan said. "West Nile can be the same."

Web Resources

Washington State
Department of Health
www.doh.wa.gov/wnv

Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile

US Geological Survey &
CDC ArboNET maps
<http://westnilemaps.usgs.gov/index.html>

Washington State
University Cooperative
Extension
www.wnv.wsu.edu

Washington State
Department of
Agriculture
www.agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/Diseases/WestNileVirus/default.htm

Northwest Links

Idaho Department of
Health & Welfare
www.westnile.idaho.gov

Oregon Department of
Human Services
<http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/acd/diseases/wnile/survey.shtm>

British Columbia Center
for Disease Control
<http://www.bccdc.org/content.php?item=183>

Rocco Magliozzi, 12, of Norwood, Mass., died July 28 at a Boise hospital after contracting both West Nile virus — a mosquito-borne virus — and Rocky Mountain spotted fever — a tick-borne virus, Shanahan said. Officials believe the boy was bitten by both insects while attending summer camp in southern Idaho. It's not clear which disease caused the boy's death, Shanahan said, though it was likely a combination of both. Rocky Mountain spotted fever is typically more severe than West Nile, he said.

It's the first year that Idaho officials know of any West Nile-related fatalities, and it's still early in the mosquito season, Shanahan said.

Port Orchard WNV report false alarm, Army says

King5.com, August 3, 2006

SEATTLE - The Army is now saying that a report of a Port Orchard man contracting West Nile virus is incorrect. After informing him he had the disease, they did a second test that came back negative - they just never told the man their findings.

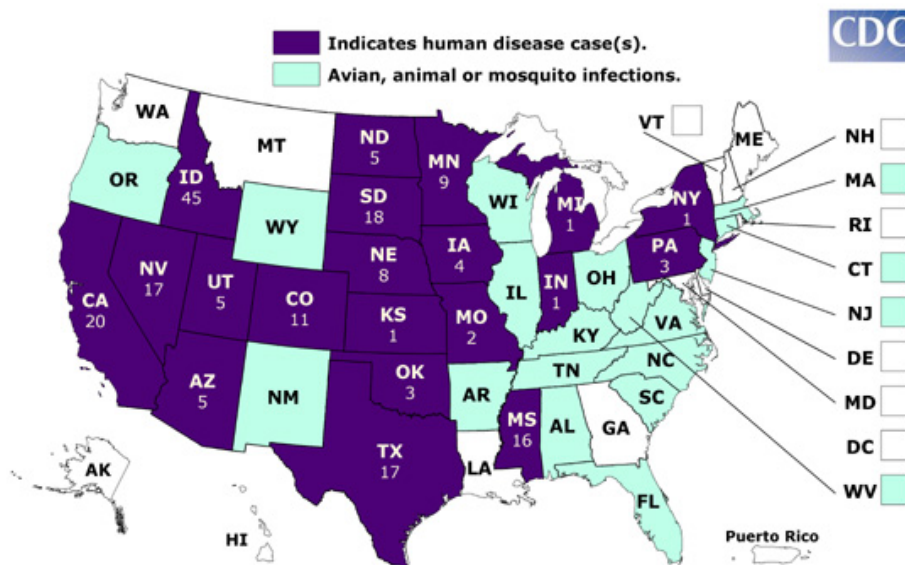
Major Robin Whitacre of the Madigan Hospital Army Services Blood Bank explained Thursday afternoon that they've had eight initial positive tests since January. After retesting the samples, the results came back negative.

"There have been no confirmed cases of West Nile virus reported from our donor center or Madigan," Whitacre said.

Continue reading this report at <http://www.king5.com/health/stories/NW080306WABwestnilecaseEL.79e07e3.html>.

West Nile virus activity in the United States

Surveillance findings reported to CDC, August 8, 2006



Condor Facts

▪ California Condors once occupied mountains along the Pacific coast from British Columbia to Baja California.



▪ Condors may live 50 years or more and mate for life.

▪ They nest in a cave or cleft among boulders on a cliff or hillside.

▪ A single egg is laid and incubated for 54-58 days. The young condor learns to fly at about 6 months, but will remain with its parents for several more months.

▪ Condors can travel several hundred miles in search of food. They feed on dead mammals like deer, sheep, cattle, and horses in any state of decay.

▪ Adults have a body length of 43-52 inches, a wingspan of 9 ½ feet, and weigh 18-23 lbs.

▪ They are extremely social birds and spend a great deal of time feeding and roosting together.

Learn more about the conservation effort for the California Condor and other birds of prey at <http://www.peregrinefund.org/default.asp>.

Condor chicks die of West Nile in Idaho

By John Miller, Associated Press, July 26, 2006

BOISE, Idaho - Efforts to save North America's tiny population of critically endangered California condors suffered what biologists called a minor setback last week when four 3-month-old chicks at an Idaho raptor center died of West Nile virus.

Their demise leaves just eight condor hatchlings at the World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise, where biologists have been breeding the federally protected scavengers since 1994.

These are the first condors to die from the mosquito-borne virus at the center, a project of The Peregrine Fund. West Nile showed up in Idaho in 2003 and emerged a month ahead of schedule this year, as spring rains left pools where mosquito larvae thrive, state officials said.

Bill Heinrich, the center's species restoration manager, said the deaths aren't a devastating blow to his \$1.3 million annual condor breeding program, but they're still disappointing. Consequently, the facility in 2006 will send fewer than half the 20 birds it transported last year for release at sites including near Arizona's Grand Canyon.

"Until the young are 90 days old, they're too young to vaccinate," Heinrich said. "These birds were just about ready to be vaccinated when they caught the virus."

Condors have been listed as endangered since 1967, and the World Center for Birds of Prey is one of just four U.S. programs — two are in California, one in Oregon — breeding birds for release into the wild.

Condors, which have nearly 10-foot wingspans, once ranged from Mexico to Canada. By 1987, however, there were just 22 documented birds. The population was decimated by shooting, lead and pesticide poisoning, and egg collecting. That prompted biologists to capture the remaining wild condors for a last-ditch breeding program. Today, California condors still number just 299, with 159 in captivity and 140 in the wild in Arizona, California and Mexico, according to the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

It'll be at least a decade before the birds recover enough to upgrade their status to threatened from endangered, said Kathy Sullivan, condor biologist with Arizona Game and Fish.

Still, the Idaho deaths won't affect the recovery program long-term, Sullivan said.

"We're taking steps to counteract this," said Peter Jenny, acting president of The Peregrine Fund. "Whenever you deal with animals — and particularly wild animals — you do have losses. It's always tragic."

View this entire article at

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20060726/ap_on_sc/condor_deaths



Mosquito Fish

Gambusia affinis, or mosquito fish, have been introduced around the world as a biological mosquito control agent.

They have become a problem in several areas where they have been introduced due to such things as competing for available resources and preying upon the fry of other fish.



Gambusia are not native to Washington but are used in select sites to help control mosquito larvae.

Some mosquito control districts distribute these fish to residents who agree to requirements such as not moving the fish and only using them in isolated water bodies that do not have the potential to reach other waters.

Learn how the Benton County Mosquito Control District distributes mosquito fish to qualified individuals within their district at <http://www.mosquitocontrol.org/mosquitofish.html>.

ASK JAY

Over the seasons, Jay learned all about West Nile virus and its control. Got a question? He's got the answer.



Question: What do I need to consider before adding fish to my pond to help control mosquito larvae?

Jay: A well managed pond is a beautiful thing...and great habitat for wildlife. However, a poorly managed pond can become a home for mosquito larvae. Fish can be a good biological control for mosquito larvae, but before you put them in your pond the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) want you to consider the following:

- Avoid introducing fish diseases or species of fish that can be invasive and detrimental, consult with your regional WDFW office.
- Acquire a fish stocking permit from WDFW before you introduce fish into ponds or lakes.
- Good predators of mosquito larvae, depending on your water body and situation, are trout, largemouth bass, bluegill sunfish, and perch.
- Under certain situations, mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*) are another good predator. These fish are only distributed by local mosquito control districts and not all areas have a district.
- Goldfish, guppies, and other fish commonly sold in pet stores are exempt from WDFW permitting as long as they are not put into waters of the state. These fish may be suitable for ornamental pools, horse troughs, and small ponds with no inlet or outlet. It's still best to consult WDFW to make sure your water body doesn't have the potential to flow into nearby waters.

The main concern with stocking fish into private ponds is making sure the fish don't escape or transfer fish pathogens into other nearby waters.

More information can be found about private fish stocking, transport, and the permit on WDFW's Web site at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/trnsport.htm>. Their biologist can help you find the most suitable fish species and number to stock your pond.

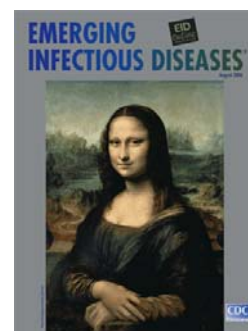
Ask Jay a West Nile virus related question at zd@doh.wa.gov.

Journal articles

CDC, Emerging Infectious Diseases, Volume 12, Number 8 – August Issue

West Nile Virus Epizootiology, Central Red River Valley, North Dakota and Minnesota, 2002–2005, J.A. Bell et al.
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/eid/vol12no08/06-0129.htm>

Mental Status after West Nile Virus Infection, K.Y. Haaland et al.
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/eid/vol12no08/06-0097.htm>



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WNV in Humans

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or
DOH Communicable
Disease Epidemiology
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877-539-4344

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Avoid summer pests and the diseases they may carry



Most people are annoyed when bitten by mosquitoes, ticks, flies, fleas, and spiders, or stung by bees and wasps, but these potential pests can cause allergic reactions, infections, or even spread disease. These 'bugs' are more active in summertime, and spending time outdoors means people are more likely to encounter them. Learn

more about the common biting and stinging pests and suggestions on how to protect you and your family at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/Zoo/bitingbugs.html>.

Washington environmental surveillance summary

Reported to DOH as of August 9, 2006

County	Horses*		Birds**		Sentinel Flocks***		Mosquito Pools****	
	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive
Adams	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Asotin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Benton	2	0	3	0	235	0	190	0
Chelan	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Clallam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clark	1	0	0	0	0	0	15	0
Columbia	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	0	0	7	0	0	0	66	0
Douglas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ferry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Franklin	0	0	2	0	0	0	67	0
Garfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grant	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Grays Harbor	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Island	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
King	0	0	11	0	0	0	1	0
Kitsap	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kittitas	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Klickitat	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Lewis	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mason	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Okanogan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pacific	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pend Oreille	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pierce	0	0	34	0	0	0	0	0
San Juan	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skagit	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Skamania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snohomish	1	0	21	0	0	0	36	0
Spokane	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Stevens	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Thurston	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0
Wahkiakum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walla Walla	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Whatcom	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Whitman	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Yakima	0	0	3	0	49	0	250	0
Totals	8	0	156	0	284	0	625	0

*A total of 11 horses have been tested for West Nile virus. An additional 3 horse tested negative, but were not included in the table because county/state information was not available. WADDL Report: July 18, 2006.

**A total of 157 birds have been tested for West Nile virus; 1 specimen was from out-of-state.

WADDL Report: August 8, 2006.

*** Sentinel Chicken Sera tested by Benton MCD Report: August 8, 2006.

**** Pools tested by USACHPPM-West Report: July 27, 2006, Benton MCD Report: August 8, 2006, Franklin County MCD Report August 1, 2006, Clark County MCD August 1, 2006, and Cowlitz County MCD August 2, 2006.

View the WNV Avian Mortality Report at

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/Zoo/WNV/Newsletters/dbreport/dbreport.pdf>.